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*Paper: Social Problems in INDIA*  
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*Topic: CASTEISM*

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- **CASTEISM**

Casteism is a complex problem of Indian society. It is bad result of caste system. It is against democracy. Casteism is based on difference in birth, inequality and exploitation. It can be said that casteism is very inhuman. Indian society is divided into various caste and sub-castes and a clear cut hierarchy is found in the system of caste. When any individual works for the benefit of his own is being said casteism.

- **Definitions**

- **Kaka Kalekar** – Casteism is an overriding and supreme group loyalty and ignores the healthy social standards of justice, fair play, equity and universal brotherhood.
- **Narmadeshwar Prasad** – Casteism is a loyalty to the caste translated into politics. Thus, casteism is a reality of Indian society. It generally effects the social and political life of individuals. The root of casteism remains in the concept of caste.

- **Factors and Nature of Casteism**

- Caste System
- Rule of Endogamy
- Social Distance
- Disabilities and Privileges
- Political Parties
- Political Leader
- Caste Organization and Movement
- Disintegration of Jajmani System

- **Causes of Casteism**

Casteism causes a negative influence on the network of social relations by several factors. These are the following causes of casteism.

- Endogamous nature of caste
- Strong desire of Enhance Caste Prestige
- Improvement in the means of transport
- Urbanization indirectly favoring casteism
- Powerful hold of the caste over the members

- **Consequences of Casteism**

- Hindrance to the development of national feeling
- Dangerous to democracy
- Encourages moral degeneration
- Casteism leads to the negligence of talent and efficiency
- Casteism may even lead to brain drain

In this context H.N. Srinivas has rightly said that the caste is so tacitly and so completely accepted by all including most vocal element in condemning it, that it is everywhere the unit of social action. Political leaders belonging to different castes seem to secure political and other advantages for themselves at the expenses of other and they also utilize caste sentiments. Caste consciousness and caste prejudices which exists among the masses and thus turned by politicians into caste passions.